

# TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE REPORTING

## Background

At its meeting on 24 August 2000 the Council resolved:

*"That .....the 2002/03 Annual Report be on a 'triple bottom line' basis."*

The Annual Report compares actual performance against what was planned for in the Annual Plan. To make a change to the Annual Report format, it is necessary to start by changing the Annual Plan and in this way changes can flow through to the Annual Report.

## What is Triple Bottom Line Reporting?

Triple Bottom Line (TBL) reporting was developed by John Elkington (from the UK).

TBL concerns all aspects of an organisation's performance, not merely the meeting of financial targets.

At the heart of the TBL philosophy is an acknowledgement that an organisation has impacts on society and the environment as well as financially on its stakeholders. Such impacts may be positive or negative. They may be exerted directly by the organisation itself, or by way of the organisation's influence upon others.

By adopting the TBL philosophy an organisation takes a position on the three core areas: economic prosperity, environmental quality, and social justice. It adopts value statements or principles which then serve as a compass in steering its strategy, policies, targets, and activities.

TBL reporting is the mechanism by which an organisation conveys its values or principles and its performance in matching them.

For each of our 14 significant activities, objectives, environmental, social and economic measures have been prepared (see the performance indicator matrices on pages 37 to 80 of the Draft 2003 Annual Plan). They also include targets and it is against these targets that our actual performance will be compared in the 2003 Annual Report. In addition to the 14 significant activity measures, there are some 'corporate wide measures' which cross significant activity boundaries and which are reported on pages 11 to 13 of the Draft 2003 Annual Plan.

## Reporting Principles

TBL reporting is a relatively new phenomenon and there is no established best way of doing it – we will learn more from every report published. Achieving a balance between detail and making the report interesting and readable is difficult. The aspirations behind our draft TBL measures can be summarised in the following principles:

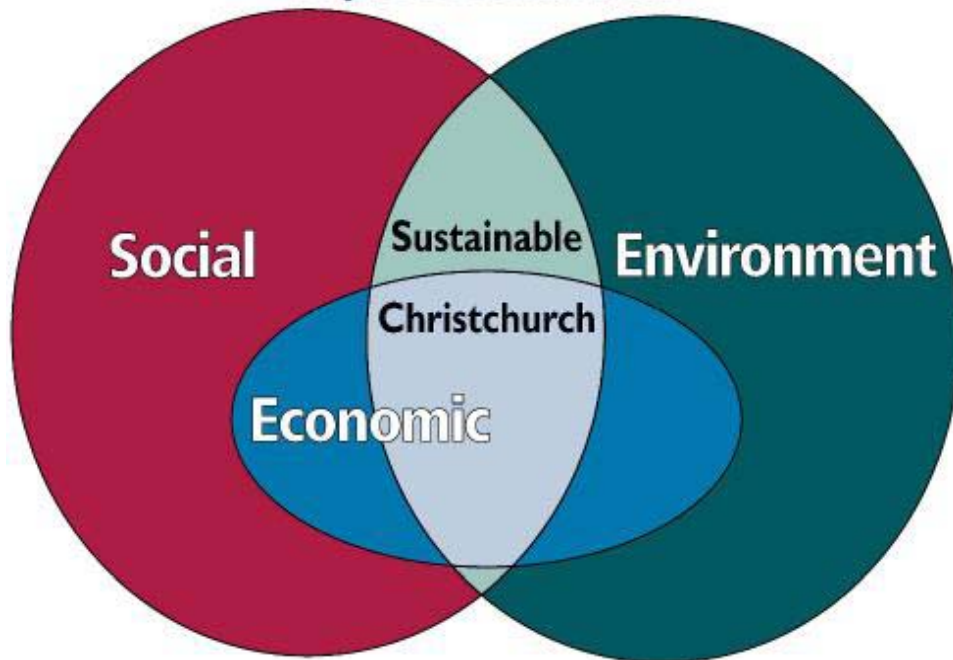
- **Balanced** – we are prepared to report both positive and negative results on aspects of our performance.
- **A living report** – we are committed to a living report - it will develop and evolve over time.
- **Use of externally derived measures and benchmarks** – we have where appropriate used these and are prepared to be judged by our performance against these measures.
- **Holistic** – we endeavour to show the full picture of the relevant issues.
- **Accessible** – both web and print will be available.
- **Interactive** – the reader can engage the CCC via a number of channels such as
  - contacting us by telephone (Annual Plan Hotline (371-1888) or on 371-1999) or email - [info@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:info@ccc.govt.nz))
  - making a submission on the Draft Plan.
- **Synergistic** – TBL reporting is a mechanism by which we can convey the organisation's values/principles and its performance in matching them.
- **Verifiable** – an independent third party will as part of the annual audit process verify that actual performance is supported by appropriate evidence.

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## Triple Bottom Line and Sustainability

When making decisions and planning the Christchurch City Council will take into consideration the social impact, the environmental impact and the economic benefits. This process is referred to in planning as the triple bottom line and will assist us in creating a sustainable city for the future. The aim is to have as many activities as practical providing social, environmental and economic benefits all at the same time.

### Triple Bottom Line



### Strategic Goals in the Triple Bottom Line



This is an action diagram.

The three circles, A. SOCIAL, B. ENVIRONMENTAL, and C. ECONOMIC are like telescope sights showing three areas on which to focus. To make our city more sustainable is important. The closer the circles, the closer we are to our vision of a Sustainable Christchurch.

The arrows show actions the Council is taking to move the circles closer.

D. DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE, E. URBAN DESIGN (eg essential infrastructure) FOR SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL benefits, F. FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP, G. TREATY OF WAITANGI and CULTURAL DIVERSITY actions.